

REMARKS

The Office Action contains two 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections. Regarding the rejection for Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and second paragraph, the recitation added in the amendment for reply to the first Office Action has been restored to the original Claim 1 wording. Also, the term “substantially” is now deleted. By the amendment, the rejections for Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and second paragraph, have been overcome and, it is believed, should now be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 9-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Shim et al., Journal of Polymer Science: Part A: Polymer Chemistry, Vol. 36, 2997-3012 (1998), independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claims 4 and 8. As such, the rejection of Claim 1 (and its dependent claims) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome.

Regarding the rejection for Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita et al. (US 6,140,418) in view of Nakagawa et al. (US 7,129,294) and further in view of Yamanaka (US 6,773,758), applicants submit this rejection has been also overcome by the amendment of Claim 1, for the following reasons. The amended Claim 1 recites a curable composition containing three components, isobutylene block copolymer (a), alkenyl-terminated isobutylene polymer (B) and a crosslinking agent (C). The crosslinking agent is a hydrosilyl group-containing compound. Neither Yamashita et al. (US 6,140,418), Nakagawa et al. (US 7,129,294) nor Yamanaka (US 6,773,758) teach or suggest such a curable composition. Especially, Yamashita et al. does not disclose the isobutylene rubber contains an alkenyl end group, as pointed out by the Examiner. Yamashita et al. does not disclose a hydrosilyl group-containing compound as a crosslinking agent, either. Accordingly, the curable composition of the present invention could not be considered obvious based on these references.

Claims 4, 7 and 8 have been cancelled. Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 9-18 should now be in allowable form. Passage of the application to issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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